

[18th August 1925]

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Because planters form an important community in the district.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“Will the Government be pleased to get the number of voters under (b) and (d) ?”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“The answer to (c) is—The Government have no information. The planters have a very small number of votes compared to the rest of the public. Will they be pleased to consider the matter ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Yes, Sir, the request will be considered.”

Medical.

Improvement of medical school libraries.

* 43 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any amount has been earmarked for the improvement of medical school libraries in the current year ;

(b) if so, how much ; and

(c) how much was asked by the institutions and how much was recommended by the Advisory Committee ?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The amounts asked for by the Superintendents of the various Medical Schools are as below

	£	RS.
Rayapuram ...	260	...
Tanjore	560
Madura	4,100
Vizagapatam ...	215	...
Calicut (now moved to Coimbatore).	1,500

The amount recommended by the Medical Library Standing Committee was £150 for each Medical School.

Revision of college fees of certain medical students.

* 44 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the question of revising the college fees of medical students who failed before 1925, either wholly or in part, has been reconsidered and if so, with what result ?

A.—A copy of G.O. No. 894, P.H., dated 28th April 1925, is placed on the Council table.*

Religious and Charitable Endowments.

Appointment of Commissioners to the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

* 45 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the respective qualifications and credentials of the Commissioners who have recently been appointed to administer the Hindu Religious Endowments Act and their salaries ;

* Printed as Appendix II on page 107 infra.

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(b) whether it is a fact that one of the Commissioners, Mr. Surya Rao, is a relative of the Chief Minister, the hon. the Raja of Panagal, and the other Mr. Chengayya his legal adviser;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Mr. Chidambaram Pillai, another Commissioner, is related to the hon. Mr. Sivagnanam Pillai, the Minister for Development, and the fourth Mr. P. V. Nataraja Mudaliyar belongs to the Ministerialist party;

(d) the principle on which these appointments were made and whether they were made on territorial basis; and

(e) if the latter, whether there is any one to represent the West Coast in the Board?

A.—(a) The present Commissioners possess the qualification prescribed by sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1923. They were practising vakils before they were appointed as Commissioners.

(b) Mr. Surya Rao is not directly related to the Chief Minister, the hon. the Raja of Panagal. Mr. Chengayya was not his legal adviser. He has appeared in some cases for him and in others against him.

(c) Mr. Chidambaram Pillai is not related to the Minister for Development. Mr. Nataraja Mudaliyar belongs to the Ministerial party.

(d) The appointments were made on the recommendations of a Committee specially appointed for the purpose. They were not made on a territorial basis.

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO:—“With reference to answer to (d), may I know whether it was not a fact that the committee's decisions were frequently interfered with by instructions from the Minister?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“No, Sir.”

Appointment of a representative of the West Coast to the Religious Endowments Board.

* 46 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the districts of Malabar and South Kanara have been exempted from the operation of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act;

(b) if not, whether the hon. the Chief Minister will be pleased to exempt the Mutts in South Kanara at least, from the purview of this Act, as already promised;

(c) even if this is not feasible, whether the hon. the Chief Minister will consider the advisability of appointing one representative in the Board from the West Coast, preferably a Madhwa Brahman, to safeguard the interests of temples and Mutts in that part of the Presidency, which forms the stronghold of the Madhwa community?